(b) whether valuable timber, crocodile, rare red corals are taken away by the foreign infiltrators;

(c) if so, the number of boats/ships alongwith persons apprehended, nationality-wise and the date of such encounters; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Wildlife authorities of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reported that although boats and ships of foreign origin alongwith foreign nationals have been apprehended sporadically, they are not known to indulge in poaching nor have any timber, crocodiles or rare red corals been recovered from them.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Forest and Wildlife authorities are taking the help of the Coast Guards, Navy and Local Police to curb the foreign intruders.

[Translation]

Research in Agriculture Field

3218. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts being made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop new hybrid seeds of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) the details of specific achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop new hybrid seeds of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) the details of specific achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the field of agriculture during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Success has been achieved in developing hybrids in pigeonpea (arhar) in the last five years. Two short duration hybrids namely COH-1 for Tamil Nadu and PPH 4 for Punjab have been released for cultivation. Efforts are underway to develop hybrids in medium and long duration pigeonpea also.

In respect of oilseed, improved hybrids have been developed in Sunflower (KBSH-1, PKVSH-17, APSH-17, PSFH-67, TNAUSUF-7) Castor (DCH-30, SBH-145, GAUCH-4) and Gobhi Sarson (GSLH-51).

Besides hybrids 45 high yielding varieties of pulses and 60 varieties of oilseeds combining resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses have been developed in different part of the country during the last five years and released for cultivation. They include 10 in pigeonp, 12 in chickpea, 13 in mung and urgbean; 13 in groundnut 9 in Brassica, 10 in sesame and 10 in soybean etc.

(b) **Rice and Wheat** - A wide choice of varieties well adapted to different rainfed ecologies and five hybrids for irrigated ecology for the first time have been developed. The improved rainfed rice varieties yield 40 to 50% higher than the local varieties while the hybrids yield one tonne more per hectare than the best varieties. Hybrid rice areas has increased to 5,0000 ha, this year. In the case of wheat rust susceptable varieties like HD 2329 and HD 2385 have been replaced by UP 2338 in the North West Plain Zone and Sonalika susceptable to their diseases by Sonali etc.

Course Cereal - In case of millets, despite sharp decline in area there has been steady production advance attributable to impressive productivity growth which in turn are due to high yielding hybrids such as CSH 113R, CSH 14, CSA 15R in Sorghum.

Pulses - The emphasis has been to breed short duration varieities and hybrids in Arhar, multiple disease resistance in chickpea, green gram, black gram, peas the lentil. Increased adoption of improved varieties has contributed considerably to the impressive production advances by one million tonnes and productivity to 601 kg. from 555 kg/ha during the last five years.

Oilseed - Spectacular progress has been made in the oilseed production during last five years. The soybean production has gone up to 4.0 mt. in 1994-95 from 2.0 mt. recorded in 1990-91. This has enabled the country to earn Rs. 15,000 m. in 1993-94 in foreign exchange through export of oil meal and has stablized the oilseed production in the country.

Commercial hybrids have been made available in pigeonpea, sunflower, rabimaize, rabi sorghum, castor gobhi-sarson, tomato, cabbage and cotton.

[English]

Rare Quail

3219. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rare Quail sighted in Uttar Pradesh hills", appearing in the *Sunday Times of India* dated June 6, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the protection and conservation of this rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item refers to a claim by the Delhi Wildlife Society of spotting a flock of mountain quail while trekking in the Naini Hills of Uttar Pradesh. The matter was referred to the State Government and the Wildlife authorities of Uttar Pradesh have reported that they had tried to verify the claims of the sighting of mountain quail from the person concerned, but they have not received any response. The local wildlife officials in the Uttar Pradesh hills have also been directed to verify the information in the field. The mountain quail is suspected to have become extinct as it has not been sighted to the wild since the end of the last Century.

(c) The Mountain Quail is included under schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which prohibits its hunting and commercial exploitation. The State Wildlife authorities have been advised to extend full protection to its habitat, if located, by declaring it as a protected area and deployment of staff to guard against its illegal trapping or destruction to its habitat.

Shifting of Assam Rifles

3220. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new site at Maha Koireng has been selected for shifting of 30 Assam Rifles from Kangla in Manipur;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to complete the construction of buildings at Maha Koireng;

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the scheduled time of completion of the buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. A site at 'Maha Koireng' (Kaithalmanbi) has been selected for this purpose.

(b) to (d). The land has been acquired and preliminary estimates have been prepared for early execution, which indicate as estimated cost of Rs. 47 crores (approximately) at the current cost index.

Police Force in North Eastern States

3221. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the police force in the North Eastern States particularly in Assam is facing the problem of insurgency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal for modernisation of police force of these State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether special assistance has been provided by the Union Government to undertake the modernisation programme;

(f) if so, the amount released so far; and

(g) if not, the time by which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Some States in the North-East, including Assam, are with problem of insurgency.

(c) and (d). Since law and order is a State subject, it is primarily for the State Governments to equip/ modernise their police forces. However, the Central Government has been implementing a scheme for modernisation of State police force since 1969-70 to supplement the efforts of the State Governments. The funds released to the North Eastern States under this scheme during the last five years are indicated below:

S.No.	State	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996
1	Assam	47.71	47.71	190.86	95.43	47.71
2	Arunachal Pradesh	46.27	92.54	92.54	95.54	23.13
3	Meghalaya	36.27	12.92	51.88	25.94	12.17
4	Mizoram	61.36	87.78	87.78	87.78	21.94
5	Nagaland	38.43	34.63	76.86	76.86	-
6	Tripura	46.53	46.53	93.00	46.53	23.26

(e) to (g). In addition to the funds released under the scheme for modernisation of State police forces, special assistance of Rs. 48.75 crores approximately has been released since 1991-92 to some of the North-Eastern States for the purchase of vehicles, arms and ammunition, Bullet proof jackets, etc.

Dhangdhara-Kuda Rail Link

3222. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not including Dhangdhara-Kuda